WHAT IS PRINCETON IN ASIA?

Princeton in Asia (PiA) is an independent, non-profit organization located at Princeton University. Founded by students in 1898, the program has long been driven by a mission to foster cross-cultural understanding between Asians and Americans by giving young people opportunities to live and work in Asia. As employees of a variety of Asian institutions, PiA fellows gain work experience while providing valuable services to their Asian hosts. It is PiA's vision that through extended exposure to Asian workplaces and cultures, fellows will develop a life-long appreciation for that region of the world.

For the 2007-2008 academic year, PiA expects to offer approximately 100 full-year fellowships in the following countries: China, Hong Kong, East Timor, Japan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. New positions in other countries are always under development and may also be available. PiA offers service-oriented posts in the fields of education, journalism, development (NGO), and business, with a majority of fellows working as English teachers at universities and high schools.

PREREQUISITES

PiA applicants are generally college seniors or recent graduates, but anyone who meets the prerequisites is welcome to apply. Please remember this is a fellowship program. Though a local salary and housing will be provided, a position with PiA generally is not a money-making venture. The emphasis of a PiA fellowship is service and cultural immersion. As a result, working hours, particularly in the teaching fellowships, are kept low if possible so fellows can pursue language study or other personal projects. Workplace fellowships, however, provide less vacation and generally require longer hours than teaching positions.

The basic prerequisite for placement is a bachelor's degree. In addition:

- **TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) experience is required prior to departure for all English teaching positions.** At least 20 hours of TEFL preparation through a short course (such as the one PiA offers at Princeton in the Spring) or volunteer tutoring will fulfill this requirement. Tutoring can be done at most universities and also through church groups and human service organizations. Princeton University students who are not already TEFL certified are required to take the TEFL course offered through PiA in the Spring.

- English teaching positions require native English speaking ability. PiA recognizes that citizens of any country may have that ability, but we have occasionally had problems convincing Asian institutions of that fact.

- Asian language ability is not a prerequisite for most positions. Non-teaching positions typically require some language skills or specific academic or work experience.

- All applicants MUST be able to come to Princeton for an interview in January, and those applicants who receive placement must attend the weekend orientation held May 18-21 on Princeton's campus.

COSTS

1) Application fee: $40
2) Transportation expenses for trips to Princeton in January (interviews) and May (orientation).
3) $315 fellow contribution. This contribution represents only a fraction of the total costs of arranging a fellowship.
4) Vaccination and pre-departure health expenses.
5) Visa application fees.
6) Round-trip transportation to Asia for many positions.
7) TEFL certification course where applicable- the course offered at Princeton costs $100 and will be held April 14-16

PiA is dedicated to offering these experiences to as diverse and talented an applicant pool as possible. Princeton in Asia will work with each applicant to ensure that financial considerations do not preclude anyone from applying or participating in these service opportunities.
GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE

In addition to local salary and housing, PiA provides:

- An orientation program including travel, health, visa, and packing information as well as cultural and current affairs background on our locations.
- Group medical insurance for all fellows in need of coverage, including emergency medical evacuation coverage.
- Airfare is generally the responsibility of the fellow. (Travel grants are provided on a need basis.)
- Language and cultural grants are awarded on a merit basis.
- Student loan deferments for PiA participants are generally granted by student loan agencies.

- Applicants should tell us their country(ies) of preference. If you are interested in a specific job or sector, you may indicate that as well. Keep in mind, however, that a certain degree of flexibility may increase your chances of placement.

- Look through some general resources on Asia prior to making your country selections or attending your interview. Suggestions: The Asian Wall Street Journal; The Japan Times Weekly; The Lonely Planet Guidebook Series. The Asia Society has an excellent web page at www.asiasociety.org. You may wish to seek advice from international students as well as East Asian Studies professors.

- Princeton students or people who live in the area may come by the PiA office and look through reports filed by previous fellows about their positions. Those who are applying from off-campus should contact the office and tell us what positions interest you so we can send these reports by email.

- Some PiA posts allow for unmarried couples to be placed together in the same city. It is not easy to arrange, however, and both candidates must qualify independently. If you desire to work near a significant other, please inform us early in the application process.

- Although unique, PiA is not the only program that sends fellows to Asia. If you do not live near Princeton or will be out of the country for an extended period of time, you may want to consider another program due to the travel costs you will incur by applying to PiA. All selected applicants must come to Princeton for an interview and orientation. We attempt to offer interviews only to those applicants who stand a reasonable chance of being placed. However, being granted an interview does not guarantee placement.

CALENDAR

December 4: Deadline for submission of application materials. Materials must be mailed to the PiA office. Recommendations may be mailed separately.

Mid/Late December: Selected applicants are notified of interview date and time.

January 13-14 & 20-21: Interviews of selected applicants held at Princeton University. Interviews for China, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam are generally held the first weekend. All other interviews are the second weekend. Required.

Mid-March: PiA notifies applicants of first-round selection results. Upon notification, candidates must make a commitment to accept the position and to follow through on related commitments if accepted by the host. If first choice candidates cannot commit, then alternates are contacted. Asian institutions make final selections, not PiA.

Late March: Finalization of positions.

April 14-16: TEFL certification course offered at Princeton University.

May 18-21: Orientation at Princeton. All new fellows must attend orientation. Orientation lasts four days, starting Friday Afternoon and ending Monday evening.

Late May-October: New fellows leave for Asia. Date of departure depends upon the country and employing institution. For departure dates for specific positions see the Summary of 2007-2008 PiA Fellowships.
Checklist

- Application Fee: $40.00. Please make checks payable to Princeton in Asia.
- A completed PiA application form.
- Two completed essays (see below).
- Two copies of your resume (one page in length) including your current and permanent addresses and phone numbers. Tailor your resume for PiA purposes, highlighting previous teaching, travel, Asian language proficiency, and cross-cultural experience. Applicants for workplace and technical-teaching (Singapore) positions should detail their coursework and work experience as appropriate.
- All official college transcripts (as recent as possible).
- One letter of reference, including the phone number and email address of the writer, plus contact information for a second reference. We prefer at least one employer reference, if possible.
- One photocopy of your currently valid passport information page (which includes passport number, period of validity, etc.). If your passport is due to expire within 18 months, begin the renewal process now. All applicants must have a valid passport by interviews in January.
- Four passport photos with your name printed on the back of each and put in an envelope. Digital photo print-outs are not acceptable.

Essay #1: Where in Asia and Why?

Being as specific and personal as possible, please discuss why you have selected certain countries and positions. Try to touch upon the following:

1) What attracts you to these locations?
2) What do you expect will be the greatest challenge of the job, and how do you plan to handle it? The greatest reward?
3) What do you think will be the most difficult aspect of living in another country? In the country you selected?
4) In the long run, what do you hope to gain by spending time in this country/out of your own country?

Please keep your essay to around 750 words.

Essay #2: Handling Transition

Discuss an event which caused a major change in your life. How did you deal with the transition? What aspects of this transition were the most difficult, and what do you feel you learned? Would you do anything different?

Please keep your essay to around 500 words.

Please send your completed application by December 4 to:
Princeton in Asia; Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Room 202; 83 Prospect Avenue
Princeton University; Princeton, NJ 08544
**Frequently Asked Questions**

Do I need to be a Princeton graduate?
No. PiA is a Princeton-based program, and approximately 50% of our applicants are Princeton students. Therefore, we expect that many of our placements will be Princetonians. But for any specific fellowship opening, we are looking for the best possible candidate regardless of their undergraduate institution.

Can I apply if I graduated from college several years ago?
Yes. Approximately 15 percent of PiA fellows have been out of college a few years before applying to PiA.

What kind of degree do I need?
You must have your bachelor degree by the time you go to Asia. We accept people with advanced degrees (Masters only, no PhDs), especially for non-teaching posts. PiA's fellowships are geared toward recent college graduates. People with many years of teaching or other experience should consider other programs.

What are my chances of placement?
Applicant numbers vary from year to year, but there have consistently been three or more strong applicants per opening. Candidates who have clearly defined goals yet demonstrate flexibility regarding placement have better chances.

Is it an advantage to have been to Asia before?
No. There are a handful of positions that require some previous experience and/or Asian language skills. For most positions, however, we are looking for an interest in Asia rather than in-depth knowledge.

Should I specify a particular country or job on my application?
You should tell us your country(ies) and, if applicable, cities of preference. When necessary, do some research to determine which country(ies) might best suit you. If you are interested in a specific job or sector, you may indicate that as well. Keep in mind, however, that a certain degree of flexibility may increase your chance of placement.

Is PiA only about English teaching?
No. The majority of fellows are employed as English teachers at universities, colleges, and high schools. But there are also specialized positions in business, international development, journalism, law, and teaching of technical subjects.

How do I learn more about specific positions?
Princeton students or people who live in the area may come by the PiA office and look through reports filed by previous fellows about their positions. Those who are applying from off-campus should contact the office and tell us what positions interest you so we can send these reports by email.

Will you be adding any new positions to the ones listed on this application?
Yes. Every year, PiA typically adds new positions and eliminates others, with details not finalized until January. In addition, some positions may not be available if a current fellow decides to stay a second year on the job.

How do I decide where I want to go and what I want to do?
Here are some questions we ask candidates to help discover what post might best suit them: What is your college major/industry of interest, and how might you apply that working in Asia? What kind of climate do you like? Do you like living in big cities or small towns? Do you want the opportunity to learn a foreign language or do you prefer a primarily English-speaking country? Do you want to live in a more developed or less developed area? Do you want to live in a place with other foreigners? Do you know a PiA alum to ask about his or her experience?
Last Name: ____________________ First Name: ____________________
Middle Initial: ________ Nickname/Preferred Name: ____________________

1) Current Address
Street __________________________ Apt # __________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip Code __________ Country ______________________
Home Phone # ___________________ Cell Phone# __________________
Work # ___________________________ E-Mail Address __________________

Last Date in the spring of 2007 that you can be contacted at the above address/number: ____________________________

2) Permanent Address (i.e. Family Address):
Street __________________________ Apt # ________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip Code __________ Country ______________________
Home Phone # ___________________ Emergency contact: Name: ___________________________
                                            Phone: ___________________________
                                            E-mail: ___________________________

Which address/# can we use to contact you between Dec. 11 & Jan. 13? __________________________

3) Background
Undergraduate University ____________________________ Major ____________________________
Graduating Class ____________________________ If 2006, date of graduation (mm/dd) __________
Graduate Degree or coursework (if any) ______________________________________________________
Any teaching experience? _________________________________________________________________

Any international travel/living experience? If so, where and what length of time? __________________

How did you find out about PiA? ___________________________________________________________

Important Background Information- Please Fill In Completely
Passport # __________ Expiration Date ______ Place of Issue __________________
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) ____________ Social Security # ____________________
Last Name: ___________________________________ First Name: ___________________________________

4) Any Foreign Language Experience? (not a prerequisite)

If yes, which language(s)? __________________________ How many semesters/years? ______

5) Countries of Interest (Indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice)

___ East Timor ___ Malaysia
___ Hong Kong ___ Mongolia
___ Indonesia ___ People's Republic of China
___ Japan ___ The Philippines
___ Kazakhstan ___ Singapore
___ Korea ___ Taiwan
___ Laos ___ Thailand
___ Vietnam ___ Cambodia (in development)

6) Locations of Interest

If PiA has fellowships in more than one location in the countries you indicated above, please specify which location(s) you prefer. In addition, use this section to highlight specific fellowships (e.g. NGOs or Media) which interest you.

1st Choice Country:
Preferred locations/fellowships:

2nd Choice Country:
Preferred locations/fellowships:

3rd Choice Country:
Preferred locations/fellowships:

Are you applying for other fellowships/programs (P55, PiAf, PiLa, Fulbright, Peace Corp, etc.)? If yes, which ones?

Notes/Additional Comments: Is there anything else you would like us to know?